

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 7 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1205-1-01 (ACCNO 0480) Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Name: SCHMIDT, WALTER ROY JR Date Status assigned: 24 Oct 1973

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	#
Service	MARINE CORPS	Sex	MALE	Blood type	B #
Grade	O2	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	HAZEL	Weapon	#
Serial No	DATA	Height	71 in / 1.80 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	18 Nov 1945	Weight	184 lb / 83.4 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	NEW YORK	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0) LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)

Site Type:	CRASH SITE	
UTM:	48QYD273053	48QYD269056
Lat/Long:	161910N / 1070740E	161919N / 1070727E
Country:	SOUTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	1	
Mission Province:	THUA THIEN-HUE	
(formerly):	THUA THIEN	
Mission District:	A LUOI	
Mission Date:	9 Jun 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Remote area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Nov 89, Oct 89, Mar 89
Investigations: Jul 89, Apr 92
Surveys: Jul 89
Vessey Case: ONE
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (1) Out of the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	A4E	Serial:	151080
Crash Type:	Enemy action	Engine Type:	J52
Call Sign:	HELLBORN 215	1 Serial:	#
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	\$

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

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=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

12 December 1975

ON 9 JUNE 1968 1LT WALTER R. SCHMIDT, JR. WAS THE PILOT OF AN A4E AIRCRAFT, (BUNO #151080), AS LEAD IN A FLIGHT OF TWO ON A DIRECT AIR SUPPORT MISSION OVER THE A SHAU VALLEY, SOUTH VIETNAM. DURING RECOVERY FROM A BOMB RUN, HIS AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY ENEMY GROUND FIRE. LT SCHMIDT EJECTED AND A GOOD PARACHUTE WAS OBSERVED TO LAND IN THE TREES IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD 269 056. RADIO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH HIM AND HE INFORMED HIS WINGMAN THAT HIS HAND WAS BADLY HURT AND HE POSSIBLY HAD A BROKEN LEG.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) EFFORTS WERE INITIATED. RADIO CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE SAR FORCE AND HE WAS OBSERVED ON THE GROUND. RESCUE ATTEMPTS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BUT WERE ABANDONED AT DARK AFTER ONE SAR HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN AND TWO MORE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY ENEMY FIRE. AT THE END OF THE DAY ENEMY TROOPS WERE OBSERVED WITHIN TWENTY METERS OF LT SCHMIDT'S LAST KNOWN POSITION. SAR EFFORTS WERE RESUMED THE FOLLOWING MORNING AND CONTINUED FOR 15 DAYS WITHOUT SUCCESS. NO EVIDENCE OF LT SCHMIDT OR HIS PARACHUTE COULD BE LOCATED. (REF 1 & 2)

DURING THE EXISTANCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. DETAILS OF THIS CASE TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION INDICATING ENEMY KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN DETERMINING STATUS AND RESOLUTION. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. 1LT SCHMIDT IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

12 December 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, SCI OFFICE, 1ST MAW, 15 JUN 68. <2> CJTFFA, DET ONE 021038Z JUN 92. <3> JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 191036Z AUG 89.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

10 March 1980

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS PROVIDED TO THE SRV IN HANOI ON 11 AUG 79 BY MEMBERS OF THE WOLFF DELEGATION. A FOLDER WAS PASSED TO THE SRV GOVERNMENT DURING THE JCRC TECH MEETING OF 25-28 AUG 87.

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=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO WALTER R. SCHMIDT, JR. WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

1 May 1989

JCRC PASSED A NARRATIVE FOLDER PERTAINING TO THIS CASE TO THE SRV DURING THE 22 - 25 MARCH 1989 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

7 December 1989

THE JCRC DISCUSSED THIS CASE WITH THE VNOSMP DURING THE 27 - 29 NOVEMBER 1989 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

DURING THE 29 - 30 OCT 89 MEETING IN HANOI, GEN VESSEY PASSED A NARRATIVE ON THIS CASE TO VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

8 August 1990

A CASE INVESTIGATION SUMMARY WAS PASSED TO THE VNOSMP DURING THE 10-12 JUL 90 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

8 April 1991

DURING THE 19 - 23 MARCH 1991 TECHNICAL MEETING, THE U.S. TEAM PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE ITS ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE JOINT INVESTIGATIONS ON CASE 1205.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

19 December 1975

INCIDENT LOCATION CHANGED FROM YD387052 TO YD273053 AND SECONDARY SITE OF YD269056 ENTERED BASED ON LTR, 1 MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, 4 JUL 68, SUBJ: MIA REPORT.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

1 October 1993

FROM 29 APRIL TO 3 MAY 92, THE TEAM INTERVIEWED TWO WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED

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INFORMATION INCONSISTENT WITH CASE 1205. THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE AND QUESTIONED TWO LONG-TERM LOCAL RESIDENTS CONCERNING THE CRASH OF A JET AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA. BOTH VILLAGERS STATED NO U.S. JET AIRCRAFT HAD EVER CRASHED NEAR THEIR HAMLET NOR HAD VILLAGERS EVER SCAVENGED JET AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE FROM THE AREA. THE TEAM CONDUCTED AN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ALLEGED CRASH SITE, BUT THICK VEGETATION PREVENTED A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VALLEY FLOOR. DURING THE INVESTIGATION, THE TEAM DID NOT OBTAIN INFORMATION RELATED TO THE INCIDENT. (REF 2)

4 October 1993

DURING THE SEVENTH ITERATION (31 JUL - 19 AUG 1989), THE FIELD TEAM INTERVIEWED FORMER NLF OFFICIALS WHO STATED THAT NO AIRCRAFT EVER CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF WHERE U.S. RECORDS INDICATE CASE 1205 OCCURRED. THE TEAM TRAVELLED ON FOOT TO THE CRASH SITE AND PILOT'S LAST KNOWN LOCATION WITHOUT SUCCESS. (REF 3)